

DNR News

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GOVERNOR S ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS HONOR FIVE IOWA LEADERS

DES MOINES — Five Iowa organizations and businesses will receive environmental excellence awards from Gov. Tom Vilsack at a ceremony Feb. 7 in Des Moines. The recognition is part of program honoring Iowans for their leadership and innovation in protecting Iowa's natural resources.

"I congratulate these Iowans for their outstanding work to protect and enhance our environment," Vilsack said. "Their commitment and leadership are examples to us all, helping to further our state's natural resource goals especially toward improved water quality."

The awards program recognizes comprehensive environmental programs by organizations, along with special project awards in water quality, air quality, waste management, habitat restoration/development, and energy efficiency/renewable energy. The six winners were chosen from 40 nominations and include:

Environmental Excellence Award: Firestone Agricultural Tire, Des Moines, for numerous environmental improvements to save energy and reduce waste in manufacturing processes and facilities, resulting in millions of tons of avoided landfill waste and hundreds of thousands of dollars in energy savings.

Special Recognition in Energy Efficiency/Renewable Energy: Five Seasons Transportation and Parking, Cedar Rapids, for converting its entire 50-bus fleet to run on biodiesel, a renewable energy resource that reduces air pollution.

Special Recognition in Waste Management: West Branch Middle School, West Branch, for a seventh-grade class that spearheaded a project to collect used oil filters from local residents and recycle used oil.

Special Recognition in Water Quality: Iowa Children's Water Festival, Des Moines, for creating a venue to teach water quality values and activities to thousands of central-Iowa children each year.

Special Recognition in Air Quality: Five Seasons Transportation and Parking, Cedar Rapids, for converting its entire 50-bus fleet to run on biodiesel, a renewable energy resource that reduces air pollution.

Special Recognition in Habitat Restoration/Development: City of Decorah, for protecting a stretch of the upper Iowa River valley through the development of an 11-acre filter strip, 24-acre prairie and one-acre butterfly garden to be cared for by the community.

Complete details about each award winner and the awards program are available at: www.iowadnr.com

The ceremony will take place at the State Capitol Building in Des Moines Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. The awards are sponsored by the Governor's Office, the Department of Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, the Department of Economic Development, the Department of Education, the Department of Public Health and the Iowa Waste Reduction Center.